



International Flash Flood Forecasting Workshop

Realizing Flash Flood and Disaster Resilience through New Partnerships and Technologies

March 13-17, 2006 • Hotel Herradura Resort & Conference Center • San José, Costa Rica

Organized by

The U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
World Meteorological Organization

In Partnership with



Fact Sheet

BACKGROUND:

Flash floods have a major impact on the global economy and loss of human lives. Flooding and flash floods are the single most destructive type of natural disasters that strike humans and their livelihoods around the world. Recently, catastrophic flooding has been experienced in Guyana, China, India, Bangladesh and the Dominican Republic/Haiti. In Central America, Hurricane MITCH in 1998 caused massive destruction and loss of life mainly from flash floods and mudslides. Over 10,000 people lost their lives.

This educational and technical workshop will bring together hydrologic experts in flash flood modeling, forecast systems, and remote sensing; and meteorological experts in QPF models from the U.S. Government, international organizations, and the private sector with delegates and decision makers representing national meteorological and hydrologic services, national emergency and disaster planning organizations and donor and finance organizations.

Key objectives of the workshop are to:

- Provide an overview of flash flood prediction capabilities available for application in flash

flood prone regions in developing countries

- Identify the “weak links” in establishing end-to-end operational flash flood warning systems and how to fill these gaps
- Showcase best practices and case studies and share tools, science and system integration in flash flood risk reduction
- Present project briefs for establishing or improving flash flood forecasting services
- Open dialogue with donor and finance organizations

Topics to be addressed include:

- Forecast models, tools, science, and data systems needed for sustainable flash flood early warning systems
- Defining and implementing an all hazards end-to-end system
- Master planning, capacity building and education
- Public outreach for preparedness and awareness
- Methods for maintenance and sustainability

The workshop will include opportunities to tour the Central America Flash Flood Forecasting Center, created under the Central American Mitigation Initiative (CAMI) by NOAA and funded by USAID, and located at Costa Rica's National Institute of Meteorology.

WORKSHOP DATES & VENUE:

The five-day workshop will take place March 13-17, 2006 at the **Hotel Herradura Golf Resort and Conference Center** in San José, Costa Rica. Special rates are available. Contact: Paulo Manso at pmanso@imn.ac.cr and Yadira Muñoz at ymunoz@imn.ac.cr.

ANTICIPATED ATTENDANCE:

Representatives of U.S. agencies and international groups, including NOAA, U.S. Agency for International Development Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance, WMO, and UN/ISDR will attend along with flash flood forecasting experts, researchers and practitioners.

The workshop will also host delegates and decision makers representing national meteorological and hydrologic services, national emergency and disaster planning organizations from around the world. Representatives of firms with technologies and solutions for developing flash flood warning and response systems will attend.

Total attendance is expected to exceed 100 participants.

ABOUT NOAA:

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) conducts research and gathers data about the global oceans, atmosphere, space and sun, and applies its knowledge to science and public service. NOAA warns of dangerous weather, charts the seas and skies, guides the use and protection of ocean and coastal resources and conducts research to improve understanding and stewardship of the environment. As a Commerce Department agency, NOAA provides these services through five major organizations and numerous special program units: the National Weather Service, the National Ocean Service, the National Marine Fisheries Service, the National Environmental

Satellite, Data and Information Service, and NOAA Research.

The NWS International Activities of Office (IAO) supports the transfer of NWS technologies to countries throughout the world to advance the capabilities of foreign governments in the areas of meteorology and hydrology. IAO staff evaluates, designs, implements, and manages projects worldwide. In this role, the IAO organizes and manages project teams from the NWS, other U.S. government agencies or the private sector. Many of these projects are funded directly by other U.S. government agencies (e.g., U.S. Agency for International Development, USAID), international banks, or the countries themselves. Therefore, IAO works closely with both funding agencies and countries when developing projects.

ABOUT THE WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION:

The World Meteorological Organization is an intergovernmental organization with a membership of 187 Member States and Territories. It is a specialized agency of the United Nations for weather climate and water.

WMO is playing a leading role in international efforts to monitor and protect the environment through its Programmes, such as the World Weather Watch Programme, World Climate Programme, the Atmospheric Research and Environment Programme, and the Hydrology and Water Resources Programme.

The WMO Hydrology and Water Resources Programme provides for the collection and analysis of hydrological data as a basis for assessing and managing freshwater resources, for example, for human consumption, sanitation, irrigation, hydropower production and water transport, and for flood forecasting systems and the prediction of droughts.

ABOUT THE U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (USAID):

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is an independent agency that provides economic, development and humanitarian assistance around the world in support of the foreign policy goals of the United States. USAID's strength is its

field offices where they work in close partnership with private voluntary organizations, indigenous organizations, universities, American businesses, international agencies, other governments, and other U.S. government agencies.

USAID works in agriculture, democracy & governance, economic growth, the environment, education, health, global partnerships, and humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries to provide a better future for all.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

Sponsorships are available.

Firms with technologies and solutions for developing flash flood warning and response systems that wish to increase their visibility at the workshop.

Sponsorship benefits include a tabletop display in the networking area, on-site signage, pre-workshop marketing recognition and a corporate profile in the workshop handbook.

Companies should contact Hugo Hidalgo, WMO Sub-Regional Office in San José, Costa Rica, for more information and to obtain the sponsorship prospectus.

PARTICIPATION:

Participation is by invitation only. To request an invitation please visit **NOAA's National Weather Service International Activities Office Web site:** <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/iao> **or the WMO website:** <http://www.wmo.ch/index-en.html>

WORKSHOP CONTACTS:

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